

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid amplification reaction mixture for use in nucleic acid amplification of enhanced sensitivity, comprising water, gellan at a concentration above 0.005 wt% based on the weight of water, a DNA polymerase, dNTPs, and a target nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid amplification reaction mixture is capable of amplifying a lower level of ~~amplifies~~ the target nucleic acid when gellan is present than can be amplified when gellan is absent.

17. (Canceled)